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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1870.

Annual Meeting of the Society, January 25, 1870. Hon. F. A. CONKLING, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, December 9, 1869, were read and approved.

Mr. Conkling as chairman of the Council read the Annual Report for 1869, which, on motion, was accepted and placed on file.

Mr. Conkling, on behalf of Council, reported the following candidates as suitable for election, as resident members: Harry M. Morris, Sidney Webster, William Menzies, George Bell, Edward Stephens, J. Grenville Kane, Thomas A. Whitaker, Richard Schell, Thomas F. Harrison, Dr. G. Naphègyi; and, on the recommendation of the Hon. F. A. Conkling, as a corresponding member, Hon. Mathias Romero, Minister of Finance of Mexico.

No ballot being called for, these gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.

The Treasurer, Henry Clews, Esq., presented his Annual Report, exhibiting a cash balance in the Treasury of \$574. 44. The report, on motion, was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian, H. B. Hammond, Esq., not being able to attend, presented his Annual Report through the Recording Secretary, showing that, in all, 1,426 additions had been made to the Library, by donation and purchase.

On motion, the report was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. A. G. Hull, on behalf of the Chairman of the Nomina-

ting Committee, Mr. Wm. B. Maclay, reported the following gentlemen to be elected as officers of the Society for the ensuing year :

For President.

HON. CHARLES P. DALY, LL. D.

For Vice-Presidents.

HENRY GRINNELL.

HON. F. A. CONKLING.

REV. JOS. P. THOMPSON, D. D.

For Foreign Corresponding Secretary.

HON. TOWNSEND HARRIS.

For Domestic Corresponding Secretary.

W. H. H. MOORE.

For Recording Secretary.

E. R. STRAZNICKY.

For Treasurer.

HENRY CLEWS.

For Librarian.

H. B. HAMMOND.

Council.

WM. REMSEN.

THEO. W. DWIGHT, LL.D.

T. BAILEY MYERS.

Gen. GEO. W. CULLUM, U. S. A.

W. T. BLODGETT.

LEWIS M. RUTHERFURD.

W. E. CURTIS.

GEO. CABOT WARD.

On motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That Geo. Bell, Esq., be appointed to cast a collective vote, and that the Hon. Henry E. Davies act as teller.

Whereupon, on motion, the above-named gentlemen were declared duly elected officers of the Society.

The Recording Secretary read a translation of the following letter, which had been addressed to him by Monsieur V. A. Malte Brun, Honorary General Secretary of the Geographical Society of Paris, to wit :

Translation of Mr. Malte Brun's Letter to E. R. Straznicky, Recording Secretary.

PARIS, 21st December, 1869.

MONSIEUR AND RESPECTED SECRETARY :

It is with the liveliest pleasure, that I have received the letter of November 15, by which you have the goodness to inform me that the American Geographical and Statistical Society, in their meeting on November 11th, has honored me with the title of a corresponding member.

I feel highly flattered by this honorable distinction, to which I attach a great value, as it brings me in closer contact with distinguished men beyond the Atlantic Ocean, who are so successfully engaged in the exploration and development of our globe.

Will you, therefore, have the kindness and be my interpreter with the members of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, and express to them my most cordial thanks ?

I will always be very desirous to keep myself informed on the subject of the labors of your Society, and it will be to me an agreeable duty to make it known on this side of the Atlantic.

We have much regretted the interruption in the publication of the Journal of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, and we are happy to hear that its publication is to be resumed.

Believe me that the Geographical Society of Paris considers it an honor to continue its excellent communications with its zealous sister of New York.

Will you have the goodness, Monsieur, and respected Secretary, to accept the expression of my most distinguished consideration ?

(Signed)

V. A. MALTE BRUN,
*Honorary General Secretary of the Geographical
Society of Paris, and Corresponding Member
American Geographical Society, 16 Rue Jacob,
Paris.*

N. B.—Allow me to ask you to present my most sincere compliments to my friend Paul B. Du Chaillu. Please tell him, that at the meeting on the 17th April, 1868, the Geographical Society has awarded him the *Great Silver Medal* for his journey to the Ashango land. This medal is kept for his disposal. He can either withdraw it himself or order the same by a letter addressed to the office of the Geographical Society of Paris, Rue Christine, No. 3. I have ascertained only yesterday the fact that the agent of the Society keeps it safe for him.

I send you by the same mail two pamphlets :

1. One giving an account of the three projects now on foot for the Exploration of the North Pole.

2. My report on the award of the Gold Medal to Dr. Hayes.
Will you accept them both as a feeble testimonial of sympathy
From your Confrère ?

On motion it was unanimously

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be conveyed through the Recording Secretary to M. Malte Brun, for his very cordial offer to promote the advancement and welfare of this Society.

The Chairman then introduced to the Society the Hon. Charles P. Daly, President of the Society, who delivered the annual address, of which the recent explorations and theories for reaching the North Pole formed the principal subject.

On motion of the Rev. Jos. P. Thompson, D. D., seconded by Dr. Hayes, the thanks of the Society were presented to the President for his elaborate and highly instructive address, and a copy was requested for the archives of the Society.

In moving the vote of thanks, the Rev. Dr. Thompson made the following remarks :

MR. CHAIRMAN,—It is with a proud satisfaction that I rise to move the thanks of the Society to the Honorable President for this address—thanks which I am sure will be tendered with the concurrent unanimity of this assembly.

Before the vote is put I would like the privilege of speaking a few words. This address, so comprehensive in its survey of the whole field of our investigations, so minute and thorough and judicious in its discussion of the particular topic to which it has been devoted, has not only been most instructive to us here assembled, but will be an evidence to the community at large, and to our sister societies abroad, that the American Geographical Society is engaged in its appropriate work, and is making valuable contributions to the cause of science.

You will remember, Sir, as well as I, when there was introduced into the Council of this Society, at its lowest ebb, a gentleman who said : "The first necessity of this Society is a library, in order that it may live."

"Very well," questioned we, "but how can we gather a library from an empty treasury?"

"No matter! It shall be done!"

And finally, by watching the market, we found them coming in with books until our shelves began to groan. And you remember, Sir, that that library at last saved the Society from bankruptcy, from the fact that we had a property *worth preserv-*

ing, which property we owe so largely to the personal influence of the President of the Society. To the President's influence we have been in a large measure indebted for the courtesy we have received from our honored friend Peter Cooper, and those connected with him in the administration of this Institute. And to the same personal influence we are indebted for a large addition to the roll of our members and the increase of our library. I think, therefore, we may felicitate the President of the Society upon the occasion on which we are now assembled. It is a very small compliment on our part so heartily to have re-elected him to this office, an office which we may here say means with him not honor but work, as elsewhere office means with him not emolument but duty.

We are told, Sir, that speech is silver and silence is golden; but there are times when gold itself speaks eloquently. As we have been reminded this evening, it is made the mouth-piece of our sister society of Paris to express its appreciation of the labors of our illustrious fellow-member.

I will not stand in the way of Dr. Hayes, if he shall see fit to address you. I merely add the request that a copy be furnished for the archives of the Society.

Dr. Hayes, in seconding the vote of thanks, spoke as follows :

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I would like to add my voice to that of the eloquent gentleman who has just taken his seat, in thanks to the President of the Society for the elaborate and thoroughly comprehensive *resumé* of Arctic discovery which he has given to us this evening. I will not allude to the objects which he has brought to your attention in the early part of the paper, since they do not immediately concern you; but I wish to thank him myself personally for having presented so clearly those questions relating to the sciences—the physical sciences—of the Arctic Regions, which have latterly occupied so large a measure of public attention in this country and in Europe.

With respect to the currents of the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans which influence the thermometric line of the Arctic Regions, there has been a great deal of misapprehension and a great deal of difference of opinion; and as to whether an open Polar sea does or does not exist, there has been the same variety of judgment; but as to whether there are or are not certain gateways to the North Pole is a question about which many reasonable men declare there cannot be any degree of hoping. The thermometric gateways to the Pole may take their place among those nicely and finely drawn fanciful phrases which, however available they may be in poetry, or in politics, are cer-

tainly quite misplaced in science; and with such phrases scientific men ought to have nothing to do, simply because they have no meaning whatever. There are no thermometric gateways to the Pole except those that are made by hard memory and earnest perseverance. [Applause.] There is no possibility (I agree entirely with Judge Daly) of reaching the Poles in the line indicated in the paper to which Judge Daly has so forcibly alluded. There may be, by following the course of the current that flows into the Arctic Ocean by way of Behring Straits, some possibility of accomplishing this passage toward the new Siberian Islands, and thence across the Arctic Ocean. My own preference for the accomplishment of the passage would be, as I have often illustrated to the Society, by way of Smith Sound, and I am not yet entirely of the opinion that it cannot be accomplished by a steam vessel. I believe that, if I could have continued my voyage last summer with the steam vessel which was unhappily only chartered for three months, I could have pressed through Smith Sound, and have reached the water beyond—at least, I believe the chances were in favor of it. Though the accomplishment of this great project cannot lead to any great commercial route across the globe, yet it is due to science that it should be accomplished. It is one of the great unsolved problems of the age. How far Greenland and Grinnell Land extend toward the North Pole is certainly as important a question of geographical discovery, independent of all other considerations, as the discovery of the source of the Nile, and the region lying beyond it. I have always taken the view that Greenland extends very much to the northward and eastward, and the ices and sand that come down from the North indicate that there are lands in that direction; and I doubt not that that great barrier of ice which blocks up the passage to Nova Zembla is due to the land in that quarter, and that there is no possibility of finding an entrance into the Polar basin by that direction.

I would wish simply, in conclusion, to second the resolution of thanks which is offered by Dr. Thompson, and would also second the request for a copy for publication.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

E. R. STRAZNICKY.

Recording Secretary.

Annual Report of the Council for the Year 1869.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE,
NEW YORK, *January 25th, 1870.*

By an amendment of the By-Laws of the Society, adopted at the regular monthly meeting held on November 11th, 1869, the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers is changed from the month of May to the month of January; consequently only eight months have elapsed since the last Annual Report was presented. The Council have the pleasure again to congratulate their associates upon the continued prosperity and usefulness of the Society. The increase in the number of members has gone on in an augmented ratio, as will be seen from the following summary :

Number of members in May, 1869.....	441
Number since added.....	46
Total.....	487
Number deducted for deaths and resignations.....	22
Number remaining on January 25th, 1870.....	465
Net increase since May last.....	24

The finances of the Society continue to be in a highly satisfactory condition, as will appear from the subjoined abstract of the Report of the Treasurer, Henry Clews, Esq.:

Balance on hand as per last Annual Report.....	\$843 96
Receipts to date.....	5,445 00
Total.....	\$6,288 96
Expenditures since May 20th, 1869.....	5,714 52
Leaving balance on hand of.....	\$574 44

The estimate of receipts for the next year is as follows :

Dues of 405 resident members at \$5 each.....	\$2,025 00
Uncollected dues of 1869.....	200 00

Making the available resources for the year 1870. \$2,799 44

No estimate has been made of the initiation fees of prospective members, although the receipts from this source during the year will probably amount to several hundred dollars.

In connection with the Treasurer's Report, it is proper to remark that in the sum total of last year's receipts, amounting, as has been already stated, to \$5,445, is included a private subscription for the purchase of a portion of Mr. Henry Stevens' collection of rare geographical books, atlases, and maps, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of \$4,845. The names of the subscribers to this fund will appear in the forthcoming volume of the Society's Journal, now in press, and the printing of which is nearly completed.

By the following abstract of the Report of the Librarian, H. B. Hammond, Esq., it will be seen that, within the last eight months, large and valuable additions have been made to the Library :

Number of books and maps added by donation.....	350
“ “ “ “ by purchase.....	1,076

Total additions by donation and purchase..... 1,426

Among the purchases is of course included the Stevens Collection, amounting to 761 books, atlases, and maps.

It has been found impracticable, without involving the Society in debt, to furnish at this time the promised catalogue of the Library, but it is believed that in the course of another year this desirable end may be accomplished.

By a second amendment of the By-Laws, which was adopted at the last regular monthly meeting of the Society, held on the 9th of December, 1869, the number of Councillors has been increased from five to eight,—a measure which it is confidently hoped will add to the efficiency of the future management of the Society.

There have been held, since the date of the last Annual Report, four meetings of the Society and five meetings of the Council, in addition to which a reception was given on the 7th of October last to Captain Hall, the distinguished Arctic Explorer, who exhibited a collection of curiosities and relics of Sir John Franklin and his companions, which were obtained by him from the Esquimaux, on his last expedition to the Polar Regions.

On May 20, 1869, the last annual meeting of the Society was held and the present Board of Officers was elected. Wm. B. Ogden, Esq., of Chicago, delivered a discourse upon the Rise, Progress, and Completion of the Pacific Railroad.

On October 14, 1869, Dr. D. B. Simmons, of New York, for many years a resident in Japan, read a paper on the Topography of that country and the Japanese Earthquakes.

On November 11, 1869, George Gibbs, Esq., of Washington, D. C., read a paper upon the Physical Geography of the North-Western Territories of the United States.

On December 9, 1869, Professor J. S. Newberry, of Columbia

College, gave an account of his Explorations in Utah and Arizona Territories.

The Foreign Corresponding Secretary, Hon. Townsend Harris, and the Domestic Corresponding Secretary, W. H. H. Moore, Esq., have presented no reports of their respective departments, as it has been found convenient to have the whole correspondence of the Society temporarily conducted by the Recording Secretary, Mr. E. R. Straznicky.

The former relations of the Society with other learned and scientific bodies will soon be re-established by the transmission to them of its own Journal, as well as of other exchanges.

Although the Recording Secretary, Mr. E. R. Straznicky, has presented no formal written report of the operations of his office, the Council avail themselves of the opportunity to express their satisfaction with the systematic manner in which the records of the Society have been kept, as well as with the arrangement of the rooms, all of which are subject to his immediate supervision.

In conclusion, the Council desire to record anew their grateful sense of obligation to the public-spirited and benevolent founder of the Cooper Union, and to the Board of Trustees of that Institution, for the uniform courtesy and liberality which they have continued to display in their intercourse with the officers of this Society.

Respectfully submitted.

F. A. CONKLING,
Chairman, etc.

Annual Report of the Treasurer for 1869.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL
SOCIETY'S ROOMS, COOPER INSTITUTE,
NEW YORK, *January 25, 1870.*

The Treasurer respectfully submits the following report for the period from May 20, 1869, to January 25, 1870, of the receipts and expenditures of this Society :

<i>Receipts.</i>	
Balance from last year.....	\$843 96
Initiation fees from new members for 1868.....	30 00
Initiation fees " " " " 1869.....	450 00
Annual dues for 1867.....	10 00
" " " 1868.....	5 00
" " " 1869.....	105 00
Subscription to special fund for the purchase of Henry Stevens' collection of books, atlases, and maps..	4,845 00
Total.....	\$6,288 96

Expenses.

Salaries for 8 months of Clerk and Assistant	\$528 00
Books, maps, globes, and atlases.....	3,741 41
Furniture.....	412 04
Stationery.....	69 80
Printing.....	270 01
Binding.....	118 80
Sundries, including postage stamps, advertising, and other expenses with meetings	574 46
Total.....	\$5,714 96
Leaving a balance on hand of.....	574 44
To this sum must be added the uncollected dues from 405 resident members for the coming year 1870, at \$5 each, exclusive of life members.....	\$2,025 00
Outstanding dues for 1869, about.....	200 00
Available resources for the coming year.....	\$2,799 44

In this sum are not included the initiation fees from new members, which probably will amount to several hundred dollars.
Respectfully submitted.

HENRY CLEWS,
Treasurer.

Annual Report of the Librarian for the Year 1869.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, COOPER INSTITUTE,
NEW YORK, January 25, 1870.

The Librarian respectfully presents to the members of this Society, the following report for the period commencing with the 21st day of May, 1869, and ending on the 25th day of January, 1870.

The receipt-books of the Society, in which are noted the several donations that are made to the Library, show that during the period mentioned two hundred and eighty-nine donations have been made, and of the following character:

Folios.....	7
Quartos.....	30
Octavos.....	54
Duodecimos.....	2
Pamphlets, Quartos.....	16
“ Octavos.....	174
Maps.....	67
Total.....	350

The books of the Society in which are noted the various purchases which are made for the Library, show that five hundred and eighty-six entries have been made, and which comprise the following:

Folios	66
Quartos	168
Octavos	749
Duodecimos	65
Pamphlets, Octavos	6
Maps	23
Total	1,076

Total of Donations and Purchases..... 1,426

It will thus be observed that a large addition has been made to the valuable and useful Library of the Society since the month of May, 1869.

Among the purchases is included the large collection or rare geographical works and atlases, numbering seven hundred and sixty-one volumes, which has been purchased from Mr. Henry Stevens, with the aid of a private subscription, made for that object, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of four thousand eight hundred and forty-five dollars.

The names of the subscribers who conferred this benefit upon the Society, of owning such a valuable collection by their contributions to this fund, will appear in the forthcoming volume of the Society's Journal, which is now in press and will be issued in a few weeks.

The donations, for the most part, have been from foreign societies, with which this Society is in regular correspondence. Among the other donors to this Society are included a large number of our National, State, and Municipal officers and many private gentlemen, whose names will also appear in the forthcoming volume of said Journal.

The Librarian cannot but congratulate the Society upon the very satisfactory condition of its Library.

It has been impossible to furnish the promised catalogue, but it is confidently hoped that, during another year, means will be set apart for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY B. HAMMOND,
Librarian.